

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TEDEAL:LM

APPROVED BY EUR - A. A. HARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037536

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, PL

SUBJECT: CALL BY POLISH AMBASSADOR ON ASSISTANT

----- SECRETARY HARTMAN REGARDING GERMAN/POLISH

----- AGREEMENTS

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WARSAW, POLISH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON FEBRUARY 14 TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BUNDESRAT MIGHT REJECT THE GIEREK-SCHMIDT AGREEMENT AND TO ASK US TO USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH THE FRG TO PREVENT SUCH AN OCCURENCE.

2. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THAT IN THEIR VIEW THE CDU OPPOSITION HAD DECIDED TO BLOCK PASSAGE OF THE PENSION AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT. THE CDU IS INCREASINGLY TAKING AN ANTI-POLISH LINE AND THREATENS THE DETENTE POLICIES OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. HE STRESSED THAT FAILURE TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS COULD LEAD TO A DEADLOCK IN POLISH/FRG BILATERAL RELATIONS AND POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTE
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TO A WORSENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. REJECTION

OF THE PACT WOULD CONSTITUTE A DRASTIC MANIFESTATION OF WEST GERMAN CHAUVINISM AND WOULD CLEARLY IMPEDE EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE POLISH/FRG RELATIONS. THE GOP HOPED WE WOULD USE OUR INFLUENCE TO HEAD OFF SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE

DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER.

3. HARTMAN AFFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND POLAND POINTING OUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON AND WARSAW. FURTHER, WE HAD AT ON: POINT HELPED BEHIND THE SCENES TO MOVE THE TWO PARTIES TOWARD A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCORD. HE SAID CONFIDENTIALLY THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD ALSO ASKED OUR HELP.

4. HARTMAN SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PENSION AGREEMENT WILL COME BEFORE THE BUNDESRAT IN MARCH. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL SEE WHAT KIND OF ACTION ON OUR PART IS POSSIBLE, MINDFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS A DELICATE POLITICAL MATTER IN THE FRG. HARTMAN SAID THAT THE GOP SHOULD NOT VIEW THE RHETORIC COMING OUT OF THE FRG REGARDING THE AGREEMENTS AS ANTI-POLISH BUT RATHER AS AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE. WE HAVE A SIMILAR DEBATE UNDERWAY IN THE U.S. ONLY YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT HAD AGAIN REMINDED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT THERE IS NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE. IN BOTH THE GERMAN AND U.S. ELECTIONS THE POLES WOULD LIKELY HEAR SOME UNPLEASANT THINGS SAID.

5. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE FRG WAS A SERIOUS ONE. ONLY RECENTLY HAD POLISH/FRG RELATIONS BEGUN TO IMPROVE. IT APPEARED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE ON THE ROAD TO A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. IF THE AGREEMENTS ARE REJECTED, THE OLD CHAUVINISM WILL RETURN. HE STRESSED THAT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY OFTEN APPEAR THAT THE POLISH PUBLIC IS 100 PERCENT BEHIND GIEREK'S POLICIES, THAT WAS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. POLISH NATIONALISTS AND SOME "OLD COMMUNISTS" WERE OPPOSED TO A RAPPROCHEMENT
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WITH THE FRG AND TO THE GIEREK-SCHMIDT AGREEMENT. COLLAPSE OF THE LATTER WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THESE ELEMENTS. SECRETARY GIEREK'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE WAS ON THE LINE.

6. HARTMAN REITERATED THAT WE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH. WHATEVER WAS DECIDED, WE HOPED THE GOP WOULD HOLD OUR DISCUSSIONS CLOSE IN

VIEW OF THE DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE FRG.
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